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POLICY

UNITED NATIONS TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

In response to Governing Council decision 79/22 of 28 June 1979 and General Assembly resolution 37/232 of 20 December 1982, the Secretary-General reports annually on the technical cooperation activities of the United Nations.

As part of the measures taken by the Secretary-General for restructuring the United Nations Secretariat, a Department of Economic and Social Development is established effective 1 March 1992, consolidating the functions and mandates of the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (DIESA), the Centre on Transnational Corporations (CTC), the Centre for Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) and the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development (DTCD). The present report reviews the technical cooperation activities undertaken by the United Nations during the period prior to the reorganization.

This document addresses policy and thematic concerns in the work of the United Nations, particularly of DTCD in 1991, including actions taken in relation to Governing Council decision 91/38 of 25 June 1991 on United Nations technical cooperation, and other intergovernmental requests and mandates.

A description of DTCD activities by substantive sector and by type of programme support is contained in Addendum 1. Information on the work of other United Nations entities under the authority of the Secretary-General is contained in Addendum 2. Statistical information is contained in Addendum 3.

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ADDENDA

INFORMATION ON THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT ..... [DP/1992/35/Add.1]

OTHER ENTITIES AND PROGRAMMES ..... [DP/1992/35/Add.2]

STATISTICAL INFORMATION FOR 1991 ..... [DP/1992/35/Add.3]

I. FOREWORD

1. Effective 1 March 1992 the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Development is established. This draws into one entity the functions, mandates and programmes of several pre-existing units. The new department incorporates the Office of the Director General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, the Centre on Transnational Corporations, the Centre for Science and Technology for Development, and the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development (DTCD).

2. This reorganization further rationalizes and strengthens the capacity of the United Nations. As stated in the Secretary-General's note of 21 February 1992 (A/46/882) which announced the changes, the goal is "to maximize the impact of the United Nations in the field of economic and social development".

3. The timing of the changes, in relation to the documentation schedule for the Governing Council, means that their nature and impact, and the new perspectives afforded, cannot figure strongly in the present report. The main text and the three addenda focus largely on issues raised and work undertaken by the relevant United Nations entities in 1991.

II. INTRODUCTION

4. United Nations technical cooperation activities stand at the threshold of a new era. This is in keeping with the steps recently initiated by the Secretary-General in the process of restructuring and streamlining the Organization, priorities mandated by the General Assembly in resolutions 44/211 of 22 December 1989 and 46/219 of 20 December 1991 on operational activities, and several decisions taken by the UNDP Governing Council, including those on support costs successor arrangements (91/32 of 25 June 1991) and national execution (91/27 of 21 June 1991).

5. Technical cooperation efforts are a vital aspect of the work of the Secretariat of the United Nations. The relevant units under the authority of the Secretary-General have included DTCD and the Centre on Transnational Corporations, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNHCS), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the regional commissions and others (see Addenda 2 and 3). These have regularly accounted for the single largest agglomeration of project expenditures on behalf of UNDP and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), with the former DTCD responsible for almost three quarters of that.

6. Support of economic and social development efforts will be further enhanced through the restructuring of the United Nations Secretariat and of regrouping various units under a unified leadership. The support will also grow and evolve as the entities of the United Nations system increase their

programme involvement at the field level and move "upstream" in the technical support to government-led development efforts.

7. General Assembly resolutions 44/211 and 46/219 give priority to national execution of projects, greater emphasis by the United Nations system on technical support and on assistance in the programming of development efforts, decentralization and inter-agency cooperation at the field level, and the team leadership role of the United Nations resident coordinators. Implementation of these priorities by UNDP and UNFPA has been advanced by relevant Governing Council decisions.

8. During 1991 DTCD was closely involved, with UNDP and with the four other principal United Nations agencies to be affected, in working out the modalities for successful conduct of the new support costs regime. Similarly, United Nations Headquarters (including the Office of the Director-General, the Controller, DTCD and DIESA), and the United Nations regional commissions, were engaged with UNFPA in the delineation of planned new arrangements in the field of population.

III. DELIVERY, COSTS AND EFFECTIVENESS

9. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 37/232, of 20 December 1982, and Governing Council decision 83/16 of 24 June 1983, a review for 1991 is presented here of the relationship between DTCD programme delivery and administrative costs; the level and use of programme support cost earnings, including information on extrabudgetary resources and the associated staffing; and expenditures.

10. Healthy trends continued in DTCD performance in 1991. The total delivery amounted to approximately $182 million in project expenditures against budgets of $225 million, giving an implementation rate of 81 per cent. 1/ Within this total, some $169 million was spent for projects that earned programme support cost reimbursements from UNDP, UNFPA and trust fund sources. Another $13 million was spent on behalf of sources that did not generate such earnings, including the United Nations Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation and the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa (UNETPSA). Expenditures for UNDP comprised 68 per cent of the DTCD total; those for UNFPA amounted to 15 per cent.

11. Earnings in 1991 totalled about $22 million. Administrative costs, including those incurred by units outside DTCD in support of the technical cooperation activities of the Department, amounted to $21 million. This figure includes $2 million as DTCD's contribution to the United Nations Integrated Management Information System (IMIS). The number of DTCD staff at Headquarters was 384 in 1991, the same as in 1990.

12. Apart from technical cooperation projects, DTCD has undertaken other activities, under various legislative mandates, to meet its responsibility as the main operational arm of the United Nations Secretariat. Some of these

responsibilities are noted in the sector-by-sector text in Addendum 1 of the present report. Detailed statistics on DTCD project delivery and origin of inputs are given in Addendum 3.

13. The identification of means to increase DTCD's effectiveness has been a matter of continuing priority. Areas of scrutiny include the review of data from the monthly monitoring reports for analysis and resolution of implementation problems; extension of the use of computerized tracking systems and active participation in the development of the United Nations Integrated Management Information System; continued expansion of computer hardware and software capabilities to assist staff in their work, including linkage of the Department's computers with local area networks; improvement of communications, especially between Headquarters and the field; the strengthening of interaction with the United Nations resident coordinators/UNDP resident representatives - the field representatives for DTCD; increased emphasis on evaluation and on application of lessons learned; and efforts to augment general awareness of the Department's capabilities in its diverse fields of expertise.

IV. PROGRAMME ISSUES

14. The United Nations system, through its agencies and intergovernmental bodies, is increasingly aware of the need to develop new ways to address in programmatic terms the problems facing developing countries.

15. In 1991 DTCD was actively engaged with UNDP and others in developing a programme approach to technical cooperation, that is an approach to planning and implementation in terms of broad, multidisciplinary, long-lasting programmes rather than sets of individual and more specific projects. An example of a 1991 mission conducted under this approach focused on one country's central bureau of statistics. Rather than targeting data processing improvements in that bureau alone, plans were made for a sequence of endeavours to help several contributing ministries improve the data they supply, and to help the bureau improve the timeliness and utility of the information it distributes to them and other users.

16. Under Governing Council decision 91/32 on support costs, DTCD has been engaged with UNDP and other agencies, and internally, in defining new work to be done through technical support services at the programme level (TSS1). Guidelines were developed for these through a series of negotiations, and the new arrangements have taken effect. Proposals under the resources available through TSS1 were submitted by the end of 1991 to UNDP for sectoral studies, programming missions, advisory services, and related activities which respond to government requests for a greater proportion of "upstream" work from the United Nations system. DTCD also provided technical assistance in programme formulation at the request of governments and UNDP.

17. In its decision 91/38 (sect. B), the Governing Council encouraged DTCD to increase its involvement in programmatic exercises organized by UNDP under Special Programme Resources funding, such as round-table conferences and national technical cooperation assessments and programmes (NATCAPs). The Governing Council urged UNDP to ensure that full advantage would be taken of the institutional capacity of the Department in these and other areas.

18. Such involvement is appropriate in sectoral assessment, programme and project design and operational research at the national and international levels in the substantive areas of competence of the Department, such as natural resources and energy, development administration, statistics and population. Further details are available in Addendum 1. Especially relevant is DTCD work in development planning, which includes, inter alia, emphasis on strengthening government capacities for general economic and social development strategies and policies; public investment programmes; coordination of international assistance; and information systems and data banks for public sector planning and management.

19. In support of UNDP country programming activities, DTCD has undertaken three types of work: (a) written sectoral comments on the advisory notes and/or drafts of the country programmes for use by Governments and UNDP; (b) programming missions in response to government requests and the needs of UNDP; and (c) review and monitoring throughout the programming cycle, including the dispatch of Headquarters staff, both managerial and technical. Greater future involvement in country programming is anticipated, as TSS1 and SPR resources specifically aim to increase United Nations agency involvement in such work.

20. A strong thematic message in UNDP country programmes for the fifth cycle, starting in 1992, is macroeconomic management. The strengthening of national capacity-building and the institutions dealing with these, especially in African countries, is assuming considerable importance. Government requests to UNDP, and consequently in part to DTCD, have grown and are likely to intensify. This reflects also a trend towards more UNDP cooperation with ministries of finance and central banks, in addition to the traditional relationships with planning and other sectoral ministries. The ascendancy of macroeconomic management, and the corollary national agencies, is having an impact on the types of services in demand. UNDP and national Governments have been seeking the Department's support in the drafting or execution of umbrella-type macroeconomic management programmes. The interest shown also in the DTCD-developed Public Sector Planning and Management Information System (PSPMIS) attests to the importance placed on development of new tools for economic management. The Department has sought to be responsive and innovative in dealing with these matters.

V. NEW INITIATIVES

21. Electoral administration. This has emerged as a new area of DTCD expertise, within its mandate to help strengthen public sector institutions for effective governance. The Department fielded diagnostic missions to conduct analysis and provided advice in several countries. It was involved, in the context of a symposium on Central European electoral systems, in sponsoring the presentation of the Central American experience of a network of regional electoral institutions, and subsequent support to the organization of a similar Central European association. A series of workshops on electoral administration in Africa and Asia has been prepared. Large-scale projects in Angola and elsewhere are being considered, building upon similar work undertaken in Namibia, Haiti and El Salvador. In its resolution 46/137 of 17 December 1991, the General Assembly noted the work begun, commended DTCD and the United Nations Centre for Human Rights for the assistance they were providing, and urged them to continue and expand such efforts.

22. Government capacity for national execution. Strengthening this is a priority under General Assembly resolutions 44/211 and 46/219, and Governing Council decisions 90/37 and 91/38. In the latter two, specific attention was given to the "process aspects" of development efforts, and support to the government machinery to accomplish this. The Department undertook two pilot workshops in 1991, as the basis for further such workshops plus advisory services upon request. One workshop was for officials who manage the overall aspects of technical cooperation projects. It dealt with implementation processes for all such inputs: expert recruitment and administration, fellowships, contracts and procurement, and finance. The other workshop focused more specifically on the selection and administration of project personnel and of fellowship holders and other trainees. The workshop was aimed to strengthen national recruitment offices and capacities in Spanish-speaking developing countries.

23. Aid accountability. The needs for greater harmonization and simplification of accountability requirements are featured in General Assembly resolutions 44/211 and 46/219, and in the Governing Council decisions on support costs. An expert group meeting convened by DTCD and the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) in 1990 recommended efforts for improvement of financial management capacity, including an international working group and a technical support project team to be located in DTCD. The project now involves all donor country members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), as well as multilateral funding organizations and development banks. Donors have contributed resources and staff for the team.

24. The project's three phases are: (a) collection and assessment of data for donor aid accountability profiles; (b) test cases in developing countries to determine capacity and level of compliance in fulfilling various accountability obligations; and (c) proposals for new accountability methods and standards, reflecting the interest and collaboration of donors and

recipients. In 1991 the initial phases of organization, the first meeting of the working group, and missions for data collection were undertaken. DTCD also began putting a greater focus on aid accountability into its other public sector management projects and advisory services.

25. Economies in transition. A meeting in Moscow on this important topic was organized in September 1991 by DTCD, with support also from the Management Development Programme of UNDP. Participants from 17 countries of Asia, Eastern and Western Europe, and Latin America met to discuss government steps to adjust to the transition from centrally planned economies. Public management issues and strengthening of relevant administrative processes were the focus, with attention to timetables for the phasing of reforms, provision of safety nets for vulnerable populations, and incorporation of aspects of local cultures and traditions that had worked well. Participants noted the great efforts needed to prepare populations for the transformations towards market economies, and the role of Governments to promote improvements as economic reform strategies are shaped. A second seminar on transition economies has been planned to take place in 1992 in Beijing, China.

26. Commonwealth of Independent States. At the Washington, D.C. conference in January 1992 regarding assistance to the newly independent States of the former Soviet Union, agencies of the United Nations system prepared papers on expected needs and their response capabilities, leading to action plans and follow-up mechanisms in five priority areas. DTCD and DIESA jointly prepared the energy sector paper, and DTCD contributed to the one on technical assistance. The events in the former Soviet Union and the impact of these on the international community will be matters of continuing importance, calling for further involvement from the United Nations.

27. "Africa Initiative" in development planning. An innovative effort, begun in 1990 and funded by the United Nations regular programme of technical cooperation and Japan, is the DTCD/Japan Initiative for Financing the Human, Institutional, Technical and Management Capacities of Developing Countries in Development Planning (with a Special Focus on Africa). Commonly known as the "Africa Initiative", this project supports workshops, needs assessment studies and upgrading of planning institutions. In 1991 an interregional workshop on new approaches in regional planning was convened in Senegal. To set the substantive framework for the interregional symposium on promoting accelerated development in Africa: perspectives from the Asian experience, scheduled for early 1992, a preliminary session was held in 1991 in Malaysia. This gathering was used to launch a series of research studies comparing development strategies and policies in the two regions. A series of evaluations of the effects and impacts of technical cooperation projects in planning and economic management in selected countries has also been under way, as have preparations for a 1992 workshop on long-term perspective planning. The entire endeavour is aimed at producing useful findings and recommendations, and enhancement of the skills of a number of senior officials engaged in planning and economic management.

VI. AFRICA AND LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

28. The New Agenda for African Economic Recovery and Development (1991) sets specific actions to be followed by African States, the international community and the United Nations system. DTCD has been strongly committed to assisting Africa in its efforts for growth and development. Project delivery in Africa reached a record high in 1991, amounting to $85 million or about 47 per cent of DTCD's total delivery for the year. Three main areas received primary attention: institution building; human resources development; and natural resources exploration, exploitation and management. Within this context the Department emphasized macroeconomic policy inputs, integrated rural development and effective and durable utilization of natural resources.

29. Integration of development planning and economic management, including linkage between the macroeconomic framework and sectoral strategies, is an important theme. Planning teams have been stationed in many African countries in DTCD-executed projects funded by UNDP, and the Department has been heavily involved in related advisory services funded by the United Nations regular programme of technical cooperation. Effective integration of social dimensions in structural adjustment programmes is a matter of concern. DTCD organized a workshop on this in Gambia in 1991 and has been incorporating such elements in project and advisory services.

30. The role of the indigenous enterprise sector, including the informal sector, is gaining wider recognition. The Department's efforts in integrated rural development have obtained further momentum with emphasis on income generation, popular participation, and women in development at the grass-roots level.

31. Considerable scope also exists in the statistical field. Increased assistance has been provided in economic statistics and social statistics, national accounts, household surveys, data processing and informatics.

32. Environment is another element of the New Agenda. This is also emerging as an essential element of the Department's development programmes for the 1990s, particularly with respect to energy and mineral and water resources, in a manner consistent with environmental protection.

33. DTCD has sought to participate actively in the country reviews of assistance to African countries, as the Department believes it has much to offer. In several African countries, DTCD has been entrusted with substantive work in relation to aid coordination and management activities in 1991. As to the follow-up to the New Agenda for African Economic Recovery and Development, the Department is involved in related technical support.

34. In view of the extraordinary difficulties facing the least developed countries (LDCs) and the priority assigned to them, the Department has been engaged in many activities to help cope with the development challenges that will determine their future. DTCD has expanded its assistance to LDCs in various sectors. In 1991, this amounted to about 400 projects totalling

expenditures of about $80 million. Guidelines for the use of the Department's allocation of funds from the United Nations regular programme of technical cooperation give special consideration to the needs of the LDCs. This has enabled DTCD to respond to requests from LDCs for numerous advisory and other technical missions covering project preparation, management, and implementation, resource mobilization, strengthening of institutional infrastructure, training, national budget preparation, regional planning and integrated rural development.

35. DTCD reinforced its efforts in encouraging pre-investment activities as part of technical assistance, and in assisting Governments to attract and negotiate investments, thereby raising the overall level of commitments from both foreign and domestic sources. This is particularly true of work in the natural resources sectors of energy, minerals and water.

36. Also important is the focus on strengthening the managerial capabilities required to rationalize the use of such resources as well as the aspect of conservation. The same approach is being followed in the DTCD programme on development administration, where efforts are directed to the organization and management of public service institutions, the rationalization and streamlining of the administrations and the strengthening of financial institutions.

VII. ENVIRONMENT

37. Environmental management and sustainable development have been themes of intensified work by the Department, drawing upon recent decisions of the Governing Council and the long-standing mandate of the Committee on Natural Resources. DTCD made concerted efforts in 1991 to integrate and coordinate the work of its divisions and branches in order to take an interdisciplinary approach to environment and development issues. It has followed closely key developments in the process leading to the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

38. Funds earmarked for environment under the regular programme promote greater awareness of the issues in various sectors. DTCD organized six major seminars in 1991 and made preparations for two others in 1992 immediately prior to the "earth summit". These seminars support preparations for UNCED and focus on new policies, approaches and technologies in the Department's ongoing work. They have resulted in preparation of operational guidelines in minerals development and mining operations; energy, including energy efficiency and conservation; integrated water resources development; and the role of public administration in environmental management.

39. DTCD played a key role in the International Conference on Water and the Environment (Ireland, January 1992). In cooperation with the World Bank, UNDP and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), DTCD was responsible for organizing the final plenary session of the conference, on "challenges for the future". The other 1992 gathering for which preparations were made in 1991 is

the interregional workshop on the role of women in environmentally sound and sustainable development, to be hosted by China in September 1992.

40. DTCD formulated a framework for action to guide the Department in environmental matters. It provides a basis for activities and seeks to ensure that the Department's programmes for the environment conform to General Assembly policies and are compatible with the efforts of UNDP, the World Bank, UNEP and other United Nations organizations. The framework is intended to assist Governments in formulating national development plans and policies which incorporate appropriate environmental objectives; it will moreover facilitate the preparation of policy guidelines, regulations and legislation to foster national environmental objectives.

41. Environmental management requires an integrated and systematic approach. To that end every DTCD Branch has appointed a focal point for the environment in addition to the designated official (DOEM), who has a department-wide responsibility.

42. UNDP has prepared, tested and circulated guidelines for environmental management and sustainable development of great interest to DTCD. Briefing sessions have been arranged with UNDP, and the Department plans to refine them and its own sectoral guidelines, in relation to all phases of the programme cycle.

43. DTCD welcomed the creation of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and has submitted several project proposals to it for financing. Two projects have recently been approved: one in Zimbabwe on solar energy ($7 million); the second in China, on coal bed methane ($10 million). Other proposals pending approval relate to energy conservation and efficiency, new and renewable energy sources, protection of international waters, biomass thermal energy, anaerobic treatment of industrial effluent, and other topics. It is anticipated that as mechanisms and criteria for approval are clarified, the Department will have an expanded role in projects financed by GEF.

VIII. EVALUATION

44. The Department has continued its efforts to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation of its projects and programmes, with particular emphasis on assessments of socio-economic and environmental impacts. The methodology currently adopted focuses on self-evaluation, with greater emphasis on past-project evaluation, carried out in an increasingly consistent manner.

45. More attention is being directed to project sustainability. One continuing obstacle to this has been insufficiency of government funding to maintain project operations and meet staffing requirements. A lesson here has been to ascertain prior to project inception the long-term political, financial and manpower commitments the Government may be able to sustain, to reconcile these with project objectives, and to scale projects accordingly. Sustainability also appears to be enhanced when projects are placed within

organizational units with strong leadership and committed staff and which utilize a participatory approach.

46. A total of 41 tripartite in-depth evaluations of DTCD-executed projects took place in 1991. Of these 32 were for UNDP-funded projects and the remainder were funded by UNFPA. The breakdown by substantive area was: water (10); public administration and finance (6); population (7); statistics (7); minerals (4); development planning (3); energy (3); and infrastructure (1).

47. Noteworthy among these was a European regional project (RER/87/005) which made a significant contribution to computerized coal mining systems. The elements identified as contributing to project success were: the level of commitment by the various national focal points, the participative management style, the enthusiasm and professionalism of the staff, the quality and timeliness of DTCD inputs, the flexibility of the regional centre in the face of changing economic and political conditions, and the close communication between all parties concerned.

48. The evaluation report of a marine engineering and geological investigation project in China (CPR/85/044) cited similar reasons for its good results. Particular mention was made of an excellent training programme for overseas placements in universities and firms, and high-quality short-term visiting scientists for training and technical advice. The consultants returned periodically for follow-up and continuity. The dissemination of project-generated information was enhanced by inviting nationals from throughout the country to attend the short courses led by the consultants. To encourage technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC), participants from other countries were invited to lectures presented by project personnel on lessons learned and technical issues.

49. In a population training and research project in Malawi (MLW/90/P01) population studies were incorporated in undergraduate programmes in several faculties, including geography, sociology, economics, statistics, and education. Population themes were also included in the curricula for agriculture and nursing. The project conducted useful research, provided advisory services, organized workshops and seminars on demographic factors and provided training to public and private sector employees.

50. As to the evaluation reports themselves, the most useful ones identified approaches which might have broader applications, and provided concrete recommendations for improving technical and other performance. Some reports did not live up to their potential, drawing attention to questions of rostering and selection of consultants.

51. In 1991 DTCD participated in the seventh inter-agency group meeting on evaluation. As follow-up, the Department prepared a brief for UNDP with information on its experience in monitoring and evaluating nationally executed projects, including comments on entry points for agency participation in these exercises. The Department also provided views on possible modifications needed, and operational problems expected, as programme-based monitoring and

evaluation increases. The DTCD analysis outlined some areas deserving attention, and emphasized the need for flexibility, and for learning from experiences in technical support at the programme and project levels.

IX. WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

52. Guided by the relevant intergovernmental resolutions on women in development (WID), the Department has sought their fullest implementation in its activities, maximizing its responsiveness to government needs and requests.

53. DTCD revitalized its Task Force on Women in Development in order to promote women's role and participation within the mainstream technical cooperation programmes. One of its objectives is to secure more funding for women's development. In 1991, the Task Force broadened its activities to include, among other things, launching an innovative interdisciplinary project, demonstration of training modules, and incorporation of items on women in several DTCD-sponsored seminars. Since the activities of the Department span numerous fields, the WID task force has identified sustainable development as a common theme for inter-divisional cooperation. The transfer of technology remains the major objective of women's integration projects and training activities.

54. DTCD's WID activities have been received very positively as they promote self-reliance, allow voluntary sharing of experience and expertise, and upgrade women's skills through training and consultations. More is still required in all types of development activities, including support from Member States, United Nations entities, NGOs and the private sector. The New Delhi Global Consultation on Safe Water and Sanitation emphasized community management and participation of women. The "Dublin Statement" from the International Conference on Water and the Environment (1992) highlights the importance of women in the provision, management and safeguarding of water. Both reflect the important role of women in relation to the water sector and serve as examples of necessary impetus.

55. Most of DTCD's training activities are targeted on decision makers to familiarize them further with women's needs and participation in technical cooperation. For example, the training modules evolved by DTCD, the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) on women, water supply and sanitation were tested in a workshop in Gambia with four other African countries. A similar interregional workshop is being organized in Thailand in 1992. Plans are under way for follow-up national training seminars covering these sectors. Based on its training guidelines on policy development for the advancement of women in public management, DTCD held an interregional seminar In 1991 to train policy makers to address and anticipate gender issues that actually or potentially inhibit accelerated enhancement of the role of women in public management.

56. With support from the Statistical Office, DTCD in 1991 assisted countries to improve rural capability for the development and dissemination of statistics on women and to develop policies. In DTCD's work on population matters, a computer model for analysis and decision-making was developed, tested and enthusiastically received in several countries as a basis for action programmes.

57. The most innovative activity launched by DTCD's WID task force in 1991 was preparation for an interregional workshop on the role of women in environmentally sound and sustainable development, to be held in China in 1992. The workshop is designed to assist women in developing prototype generic programmes and projects, suitable for financing, which will ensure that the role of women is fully incorporated into the design and implementation of policies, programmes and projects related to environment and sustainable development, particularly in rural areas.

58. DTCD has also encouraged Governments to increase the number of women candidates for training in projects and participation in seminars. During the year 1991, a total of 998 training awards were granted to women through DTCD-executed projects. The largest groupings were for population/demography, statistics, public administration and economic planning and projections. More women were also being trained in such fields as energy, geology, mining and water resources.

X. TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

59. The Department in 1991 supported further promotional and operational activities of a TCDC nature and emphasized the use of developing country capacities in its work. In keeping with the Buenos Aires plan of action and subsequent intergovernmental guidance, DTCD included these features in projects funded by UNDP, UNFPA and other sources; in activities under the regular programme; and in the expert, training and equipment components of project implementation. Examples of substantive efforts are included in Addendum 1. Data on project implementation are to be found in Addendum 3.

60. Under the regular programme of technical cooperation, workshops and seminars facilitate the exchange of expertise and networking among developing countries, while pilot projects test new approaches. TCDC aspects are incorporated in the substance of these, so as to broaden their impact and make good use of related experiences in other developing countries.

61. Resources and talents from developing countries are an increasingly important aspect of project delivery. Some 41 per cent of DTCD-appointed experts and consultants were from developing countries in 1991. Of the training placements made, 54 per cent were located in developing countries. Procurement of equipment from developing countries amounted to $15.6 million or 48 per cent. In 1990 DTCD had issued guidelines to ensure that consideration would be given to firms from developing countries, and under-utilized major donor and other countries, in procurement of equipment

and supplies for project operations. Greater use of developing country sources is becoming more evident as a result.

62. DTCD collaboration with the UNDP special unit for TCDC in 1991 included support for a TCDC training workshop in Ecuador. The workshop resulted in the strengthening of the national focal point. DTCD also provided substantive and organizational support to the interregional TCDC exercise scheduled for Ecuador in 1992, with participation of 25 other developing countries from Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Asia. This gathering will focus on mining and related environmental matters, with project agreements to be developed among the participating countries. DTCD headquarters staff and field experts have assisted in facilitating preparations and matching of capacities and needs among countries. Missions within countries of the three participating regions have been undertaken by DTCD with UNDP and Ecuadorian officials.

63. In another new step, DTCD in 1991 participated in a meeting of the TCDC focal points of Latin America and the Caribbean, and of national directors of technical cooperation, held in Venezuela in September. New programme activities in cooperation with the Latin America Economic System Organization (SELA), which is the TCDC focal point for the region, are being developed as follow-up.

64. Multilateral organizations can make important contributions to the efforts of developing countries to foster cooperation among themselves, encouraging self-reliance and facilitating cooperative arrangements in resolving development problems. The Governing Council, in its decision 90/34, included TCDC among the six priorities for the fifth UNDP Programming Cycle. The Department expects to work further with UNDP in translating this priority into lively activities.

XI. UNITED NATIONS REGULAR PROGRAMME OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION

65. In accordance with its guidelines the regular programme enables the Department to respond to priority needs through short-term advisory services, training activities and experimental projects. Emphasis is on activities which can have a catalytic impact, or which provide innovative approaches. During 1991, for example, DTCD organized 30 workshops and seminars with regular programme support, and provided advisory services in all sectors.

66. Human resources and institutional development - sustainable development - are central features of work under the regular programme. Issues relating to the environment and development were explored and guidelines set up in a series of workshops organized during 1991 in the fields of energy, minerals, water and public administration (details in chapter VII and in Addendum 1). Advisory services were also increasingly sought in this area. In line with an internal action plan, environmental concerns were incorporated whenever possible into DTCD activities. In 1992 the Department would aim to expand such work, in response to the growing demands.

67. The needs of national economies in transition, and especially the question of governance as it affects public administration structures and systems, were explored in 1991 in a regular programme-funded workshop held in Russia. During 1992 more extensive work has been planned to assist with the special needs of transition economies. Relevant in this context was DTCD cooperation with DIESA in the area of entrepreneurship, launched with a workshop in 1991.

68. Integration of women in development, another priority, was promoted in 1991 with a pilot workshop to test the practical application of training modules on the subject of women, water supply and sanitation developed jointly by DTCD, INSTRAW and the ILO Turin Centre. This workshop, the first of a series, was held in Gambia. It is to be followed in 1992 by one in Thailand, in which DTCD will cooperate with INSTRAW and the Economic and Social Commision for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). Increased participation by women in water supply and sanitation projects is important for the improvement of such services. Preparations were also made for an interregional workshop on statistics on women in the informal sector, planned for 1992 in the Republic of Korea.

69. The regular programme has helped DTCD to act quickly. For example, following the Persian Gulf war, the regular programme enabled DTCD to dispatch several experts (in physical infrastructure, urban infrastructure, electric power and oil refining) as part of an inter-agency mission to develop an action plan for reconstruction. Advisory missions under the regular programme also supported DTCD involvement in new thematic opportunities, such as those related to national execution.

70. To enhance responsiveness to the objectives of General Assembly resolutions 44/211 and 46/219, DTCD participated in several country review missions organized by the office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation as an input to the 1992 comprehensive triennial policy review of operational activities. These were aimed to deepen the understanding of recent changes in areas such as joint programming and national execution. The missions should help in the analysis and recommendations for new support required from the United Nations system.

XII. CONCLUSION

71. Main issues and trends in the work of the former DTCD have been the concern of this report, taking as perspective the work in 1991 and future prospects as of the beginning of 1992.

72. Technical cooperation, for securing the economic future and the betterment of living conditions for people in developing countries, is one of the most important commitments that the United Nations can make. To enhance the responsiveness of the United Nations to the priorities expressed by Member States, and to maximize the capabilities made available, it is clear that the role of the Secretary-General in development assistance must be strengthened, not only in legislation but in practice.

Notes

1/ These are preliminary figures. Final figures for 1991 are reflected in Addendum 3.